Illiterate children in India

1665. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in India today there are over 2.8 crores illiterate children of which half are engaged in the work of one kind or another;

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government intend to take to bring these children into the purview of the education system, whether through formal or informal or vocational education; and

(c) what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) As per selected Educational Statistics compiled by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the projected population of total school going children in the age group of 6—14 as on March 1, 1993 was 15.69 crores and number of children enrolled in classes I to VIII was 14.40 crores. Number of children non-enrolled in the age group 6—14 years was 1.29 crores (8.22%). Most of these children according to research studies, are unable to avail of wholetime formal schooling because they have to work to supplement family income or otherwise assist family in house-hold chores.

Some of the concrete steps initiated to bring all children into the education systems are :

(i) make accessible the schooling facilities within easy walking distance and for those children who cannot attend formal schools, provide facilities for non-formal education at the time and place convenient to them;

(ii) incentives such as free books, free uniforms, scholarships and mid-day meals for children coming from poor families;

(iii) establish contact with parents and provide guidance to bring in change in their attitude specially in case of first generation learners;

(iv) make curriculum interesting and learning a joyful activity;

(v) community mobilisation to the need for literacy;

(vi) appointment or female teachers;

(vii) vocational courses are normally provided at higher secondary (+2) stage but POA 1992 provided flexibility to start vocational courses after class VIII.

Cultural Exchange Agreements

1666. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Cultural Exchange agreements have been signed by India with various countries,

(b) if so, how many agreements have been made; and

(c) what were the activities under taken on these agreements ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (Km. SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on date there are 95 such Agreements.

(c) These agreements generally reflect the intention of India and the contracting countries to cooperate in the fields of education, art, culture, mass media and sports etc. As a follow up of these agreements, bilateral cultural exchange programmes are formulated. Exchanges in the above fields have taken place As on date, India has cultural exchange programmes with 68 countries.

Uniform curricula in universities

1667. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of UGC has recently called for the uniformity in the Curricula of the Courses of the Universities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any uniformity has been evolved in this regard;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not by when this will be done ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (Km. SELJA) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by UGC. The Chairman, UGC, while speaking in the meeting of the Vice-Chancellors held on 20-12-93 at Delhi University, made a mention about the desirability of having uniform curricula for the various courses in the universities.

(c) and (d) The Curriculum Development Centres (CDCs), established by the Commission in different universities, have prepared model curricula in 27 different subjects. The Reports prepared by these Curriculum Development Centres have since been circulated by UGC to all universities for adoption with or without modifications. As universities are academically autonomous, it is for them to adopt/adapt the model curricula depending upon the local requirements.

(e) Does not arise.

Migrant students of Jammu and Kashmir

1668. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that a number of migrant students seeking admission to camp colleges by the J & K Government have registered a significant decline over the last three years and are suffering heavily on the education front in the State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the displaced students have been tied to a University which is 300 kms away from their place of study;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the normal academic session of eight to nine months is prolonged to 15 months or more and the gap between the examinations and the declaration of results is unduly long; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (Km. SELJA) : (a) to (d) While no decline ovef the last three years has been reported to the Government, it is a fact that the final examinations of college students living in different camp Colleges in Jammu scheduled in March-April, 1992 were postponed till September, 92. J & K Goveriment have informed that the declaration of results in a number of cases has been delayed. UGC has been advised to take up the issue with the Kashmir University and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Government of J & K have informed that the Kashmir University had a sub-Registry in Jammu for looking after camp classes and matters pertaining to migrant teachers of the University. It has been recently upgraded by posting one Deputy Registrar and one Deputy Controller of Examinations with supporting staff. An Officer has been appointed to coordinate camp classes for post-graduate students to whom the students can approach for difficulties, faced if any. J & K Government has also requested Kashmir University to expedite declaration of results.

Secularising on children's money

1669. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI :

SHRI KAILASH NARAIN SARANG :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item that appeared in the Pioneer on 20th Jan. 1994 Captioned "Secularising on Children's money"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTERY IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURC